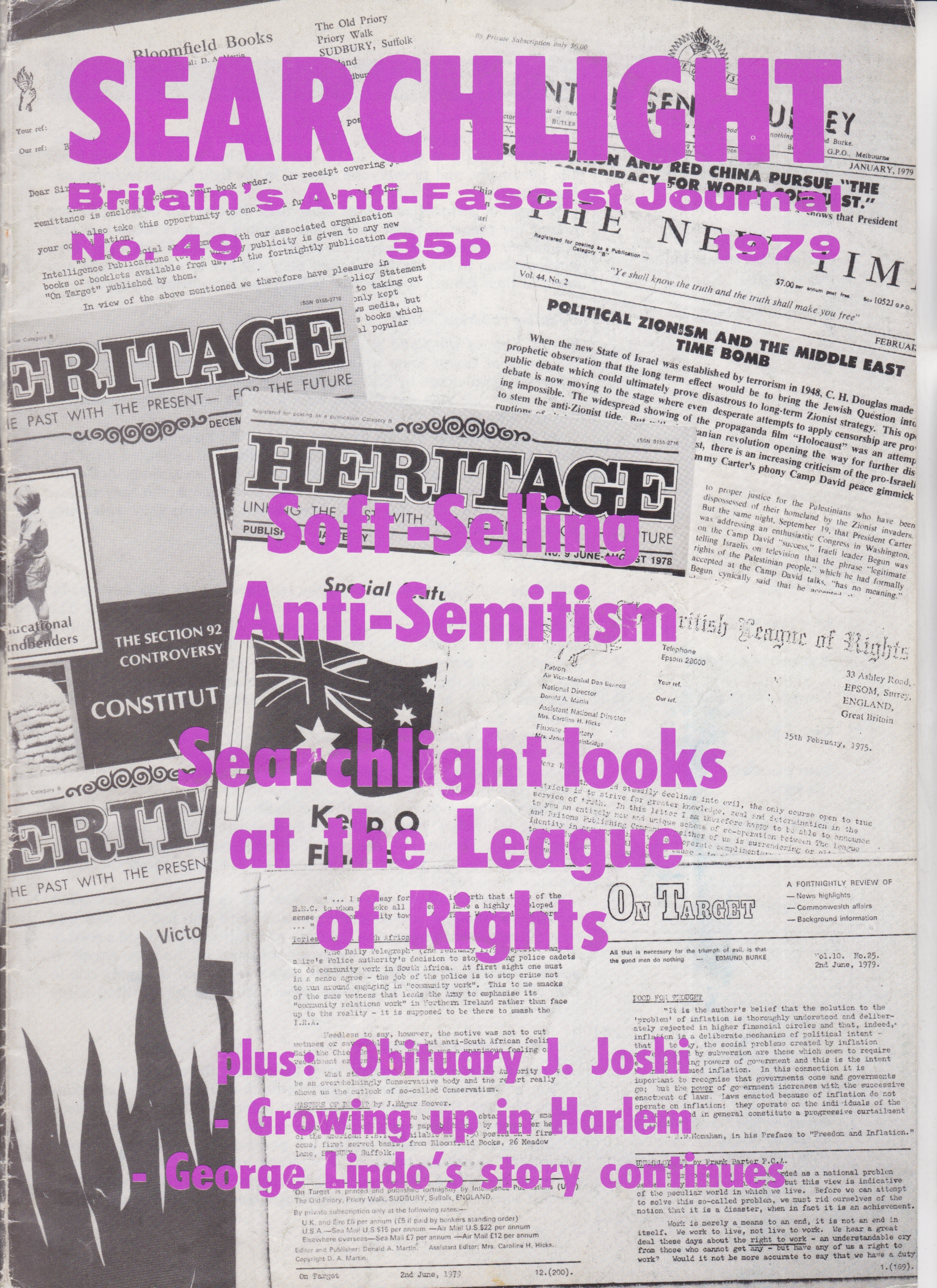
SEARCHLIGHT

Britain's Anti-Fascist Journal
No. 49 35p 1979

Soft-Selling Anti-Semitism

Searchlight looks at the League of Rights

plus: Obituary J. Joshi
- Growing up in Harlem
- George Lindo's story continues



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THE NEW TIMES

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Vol. 44, No. 2

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POLITICAL ZIONISM AND THE MIDDLE EAST TIME BOMB

When the new State of Israel was established by terrorism in 1948, C. H. Douglas made prophetic observation that the long term effect would be to bring the Jewish Question into public debate which could ultimately prove disastrous to long-term Zionist strategy. This debate is now moving to the stage where even desperate attempts to apply censorship are proving impossible. The widespread showing of the propaganda film "Holocaust" was an attempt to stem the anti-Zionist tide.

there is an increasing criticism of the pro-Israeli Jimmy Carter's phony Camp David peace gimmick

to proper justice for the Palestinians who have been dispossessed of their homeland by the Zionist invaders. But the same night, September 19, that President Carter was addressing an enthusiastic Congress in Washington, on the Camp David "success," Iraeli leader Begun was telling Israelis on television that the phrase "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," which he had formally accepted at the Camp David talks, Begun cynically said that he accepted "has no meaning."

HERITAGE

THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT— FOR THE FUTURE

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THE SECTION 92 CONTROVERSY

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British League of Rights

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15th February, 1975.

ON TARGET

A FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW OF
— News highlights
— Commonwealth affairs
— Background information

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil, is that the good men do nothing — EDMUND BURKE

Vol.10. No.25.
2nd June, 1979.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"It is the author's belief that the solution to the 'problem' of inflation is thoroughly understood and deliberately rejected in higher financial circles and that, indeed, inflation is a deliberate mechanism of political intent - that is to say, the social problems created by inflation are those which seem to require ever increasing powers of government and this is the intent of continued inflation. In this connection it is important to recognise that governments come and governments go; but the power of government increases with the successive enactment of laws. Laws enacted because of inflation do not operate on inflation; they operate on the individuals of the nation and in general constitute a progressive curtailment

- E.W.Monahan, in his Preface to "Freedom and Inflation."

UNEMPLOYMENT by Frank Barter F.C.A.

of the peculiar world in which we live. Before we can attempt to solve this so-called problem, we must rid ourselves of the notion that it is a disaster, when in fact it is an achievement.

Work is merely a means to an end, it is not an end in itself. We work to live, not live to work. We hear a great deal these days about the right to work - an understandable cry from those who cannot get any - but have any of us a right to work? Would it not be more accurate to say that we have a duty

1.(189).

'The Daily Telegraph' (2nd February 1979) reported shire's Police Authority's decision to stop police cadets to do community work in South Africa. At first sight one must in a sense agree - the job of the police is to stop crime not to run around engaging in "community work". This to me smacks of the same wetness that leads the Army to emphasise its "community relations work" in Northern Ireland rather than face up to the reality - it is supposed to be there to smash the I.R.A.

Needless to say, however, the motive was not to cut but anti-South African feeling

be an overwhelmingly Conservative body and the report really shows us the outlook of so-called Conservatism.

MASTERS OF DECEIT by J.Edgar Hoover.

come, first served basis, from Bloomfield Books, 26 Meadow Lane, SUDBURY, Suffolk.

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EDITORIAL

Jagmohan Joshi

The death of Jagmohan Joshi, General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (GB), at the age of 43, was a sad blow to all those who knew him personally, and to everyone engaged in the fight against racialism and fascism.

He had no personal ambitions other than the creation of a just society free of the cancer of racial hatred, and devoted his short life to that end. *Searchlight* extends its deepest sympathy to his wife Shirley and their three children in the knowledge that they will live in a better world as a result of their father's contribution to mankind (see obituary page 8).

Polluting childrens' minds

In this *Year of the Child* it is a matter of concern to see that amongst the group of fascist louts who were arrested whilst they were trying to intimidate anti-racists in East London were a number of children. They, along with some men and youths, were heard to say that they wanted to "go and hit a Paki".

So far four of the youths have appeared at Old Street where the magistrate Mr John Nichol referred to them as bullies and sentenced them to a month in prison. Maybe some of the children who went along on this bit of thuggery were influenced by their older companions; but they are just as much victims of a pack of Nazi race haters, as those they were being goaded to attack.

The Virk Brothers

Whilst welcoming the reduction of the sentences on the Virk Brothers by the Appeal Court, there still remain disturbing elements in the case. The three Asian brothers were defending themselves against racist abuse from a gang of white youths who were known for their racist activities. The Appeal Judge accepted that there was provocation but in that case why was it that *only* the Virk's were arrested and charged? Why were the racist attackers who, it is understood, were not exactly unknown to the police allowed to go scot free?

There is little reason for the Asian community to have any real faith in the "forces of law and order" when they feel that there has been partiality shown. This feeling must be heightened when comparing even the reduced sentence of five years received by one of the brothers.

Compare that with the case of Mark Sullivan who was found guilty of stabbing to death a West Indian youth at Dalston, North London some months ago. Throughout the case Sullivan's racist friends egged him on from the public gallery and he frequently acknowledged them. His sentence when found guilty: five years.

It's strange, to say the least, that Virk has to serve five years (after appeal), for stabbing and wounding a racist lout who had attacked him with a heavy spanner, but that Sullivan, who apparently crossed a road to stab a young black to death, receives a sentence of the same length. It would be interesting to find out how justice works out the going rate in such circumstances because it would seem that the scales are tilted in one direction.

Internal Differences in Front

Last month *Searchlight* revealed what looked like the opening shot in the NF's internal power struggle with the distribution of a document attacking Martin Webster. Hardly had the ink dried before the differences between Tyndall and Webster appeared in print in the June issue of *Spearhead*. Webster it seems has now shifted his position and is putting forward 'Strasserite' arguments which he so violently attacked during the split in the party in 1975/6. What price "spotty faced Strasserites" now. For a detailed account of the *Spearhead* exchanges see 'What Their Papers Say' ☐

Soft-Selling Anti-Semitism

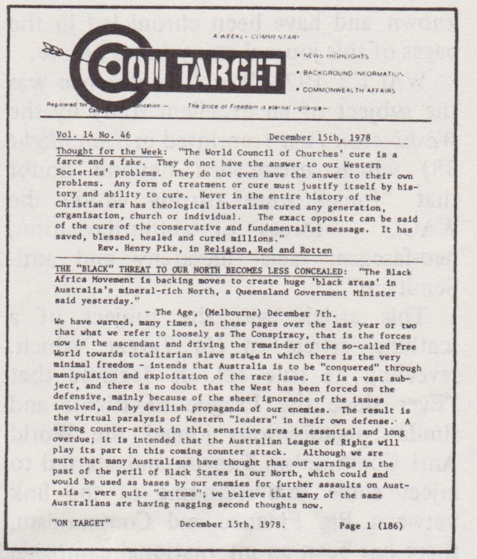
Searchlight looks at the League of Rights

THE BRITISH LEAGUE OF RIGHTS is one of the least conspicuous groups on the far right in this country. As a rule it refrains from organising meetings or demonstrations in its own right; its public faces are confined to its monthly journal *On Target* and the sales efforts of Bloomfield Books, its literature outlet. But there is more to the League than meets the eye. Run by Don Martin, with Air Vice Marshal 'Pathfinder' Bennett as its 'patron', the League is heavily involved, in some cases up to the highest levels, in a wide range of pressure groups and campaigns. In our last issue we showed how League supporters were hard at work in the anti-Common Market Safeguard Britain Campaign, and in future issues we will be looking at their involvement in a number of other organisations, including some where they come to rub shoulders with leading members of the Conservative right-wing. Here we trace the roots of the League of Rights back to the anti-Semitic activities of Eric Butler in Australia, and show how this original spiritual inheritance remains an integral part of their thinking and activity to this day.

The British League of Rights has counterparts in most of the old Commonwealth countries – Canada, New Zealand and Australia – all of which are federated into the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights. Historically, however, the League has its roots in Australia, where it grew out of the Social Credit movement of the 1930s.

Social Credit, founded by Major C.H. Douglas, was committed to replacing the existing system of finance through banks, to one of finance through interest-free public loans. The rationale beyond this proposal was the belief that 'sinister forces' (i.e. Jews) were able to use the power of finance to enslave societies by encouraging and facilitating catastrophic levels of public indebtedness. In Australia, Social Credit began in 1934 publishing a journal called *The New Times,* in which the anti-Semitic logic of social credit theory soon became apparent: the 7th issue commenced a six part commentary on the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion,* the forged tract which claims to record the discussions and decisions of the leadership of the Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. Not long after, another series of articles argued bitterly against the idea that Jews were being in any way badly treated in the Third Reich.

In 1937 there first appeared in *New Times* the name of Eric D. Butler, a young man, described as "an accomplished speaker" who was soon to establish himself as the League's leader and as a leading propagandist in Australia on behalf of the fascist countries. During the war his activities were invcstigated by a government committee of enquiry which concluded that "Butler's articles, in the opinion of the Director General of Security, constituted an attempt to create adverse public reaction to . . . the war effort generally".



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Registered for [illegible] publication — Category B

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

Vol. 14 No. 46 December 15th, 1978

Thought for the Week: "The World Council of Churches' cure is a farce and a fake. They do not have the answer to our Western Societies' problems. They do not even have the answer to their own problems. Any form of treatment or cure must justify itself by history and ability to cure. Never in the entire history of the Christian era has theological liberalism cured any generation, organisation, church or individual. The exact opposite can be said of the cure of the conservative and fundamentalist message. It has saved, blessed, healed and cured millions."

Rev. Henry Pike, in Religion, Red and Rotten

THE "BLACK" THREAT TO OUR NORTH BECOMES LESS CONCEALED: "The Black Africa Movement is backing moves to create huge 'black areas' in Australia's mineral-rich North, a Queensland Government Minister said yesterday."

- The Age, (Melbourne) December 7th.

We have warned, many times, in these pages over the last year or two that what we refer to loosely as The Conspiracy, that is the forces now in the ascendant and driving the remainder of the so-called Free World towards totalitarian slave states in which there is the very minimal freedom - intends that Australia is to be "conquered" through manipulation and exploitation of the race issue. It is a vast subject, and there is no doubt that the West has been forced on the defensive, mainly because of the sheer ignorance of the issues involved, and by devilish propaganda of our enemies. The result is the virtual paralysis of Western "leaders" in their own defense. A strong counter-attack in this sensitive area is essential and long overdue; it is intended that the Australian League of Rights will play its part in this coming counter attack. Although we are sure that many Australians have thought that our warnings in the past of the peril of Black States in our North, which could and would be used as bases by our enemies for further assaults on Australia - were quite "extreme"; we believe that many of the same Australians are having nagging second thoughts now.

"ON TARGET" December 15th, 1978. Page 1 (186)

After the war Butler published his notorious book *The International Jew,* subtitled 'The truth about the Protocols of Zion', which made the bizarre claim that Hitler had been part of the Jewish conspiracy because his policies had resulted in the dispersal of Jews into countries throughout the world which could now be much more easily subverted. Butler's committment to anti-Semitism has in fact been longstanding: even up to the late 1960s his Heritage Bookshop in Melbourne stocked the works of Arnold Leese (pre-war leader of the Imperial Fascist League), Captain A.H. Ramsey (interned during the war for expressing his 'desire to co-operate with the German government in the conquest and subsequent government of Britain'), and Colin Jordan, leader of the National Socialist Movement in Britain.

The Australian League of Rights itself was set up in 1960 with the declared intention of focusing its attentions upon 'the opinion moulders', especially the clergy, teachers, the press and the business community. In Australia it took the form of widespread infiltration of the Liberal Party following its defeat of Gough Whitlam's Labour Party; infiltration masterminded by members of the Commonweal Club in Sydney, who were closely linked to one of Butler's front organisations The Heritage Press. In Britain Butler's supporters were involved in the ill-fated attempt to take over the Monday Club in the early 70s. That attempt failed, but the right wing of the Conservative Party remains the central focus of their activities.

Eric Butler was not long in trying to extend the scope of the League's activities beyond Australia. In 1962 he visited London where he met A.K. Chesterton, then leader of the League of Empire Loyalists and destined a few years later to be the first Chairman of the National Front. They subsequently appeared together on public platforms in Australia.

Another, more significant meeting was that which he had in London with a gentleman called John Paul. For some time, Paul had been attempting to build a broad campaign of opposition to the Common Market, and to this end had organised a number of semi-public meetings where the various factions on the far right came together to discuss co-operation. One of these meetings was attended by Butler (as well as members of Tyndall's Greater Britain Movement and John Bean's British National Party), who, during discussions with Paul afterwards, agreed that with excellent prospects for building a very broad based and inclusive anti-EEC campaign, they should refrain for the time being from identifying and attacking 'the real enemy'. With Butler's record it really isn't necessary to spell out whom he saw as 'the real enemy'.

Their great hopes were dashed however, by Paul's death not long after. An influential man with contacts in Fleet Street and all the main political parties, his death left a vacuum on the far right which it proved impossible to fill. The disarray continued until the formation in 1967 of the National Front, a coming together in which Butler was an important influence.

Then in 1970, Mr Don Martin, till then an activist in the Australian League of Rights, arrived in this country to set up a similar organisation over here. Nine years of hard work have seen him create a right wing pressure group, wholeheartedly committed to Butler's brand of politics, which has succeeded in implanting itself at various levels into a wide range of respectable (and not so respectable) campaigns and organisations. These fall into two categories: those which are simply front organisations for the League of Rights, and those whose origins were independent of the League but which have been the focus of the League's declared aim of winning over the 'opinion moulders' and which have come to be heavily influenced by the League or its supporters. Some of these interventions have led to prominent League supporters rubbing shoulders with leading members of the Conservative Party, and on one occasion, to working closely with the research department of a major trade union.

As well as being federated into the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights The British League is the local chapter of the World Anti Communism League, a well-funded and thoroughly anti-Semitic collection of Nazis and right wing terrorists.

Heavily subsidised by government money from Taiwan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, WACL is an international federation of far right parties. Its affiliates have included the Italian MSI, the Spanish CEDADE group who organise annual masses for the soul of Adolf Hitler, and the TECOS in Mexico, a paramilitary group believed to have been responsible for much of the bloodshed in the fighting which preceded the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Until 1974 the British chapter was Tory MP Geoffrey Stewart-Smith's Foreign Affairs Circle; their relationship came to an end with Stewart-Smith pulling out and denouncing WACL as being riddled with neo-Nazis and anti-Semites. Into their shoes stepped the British League for European Freedom, the alter ego of the British League of Rights. Even Don Martin, it seems, has difficulty distinguishing between the two: in some issues of *On Target* he refers to the League of Rights being the British chapter of WACL, in others he claims it is the League for European Freedom. It makes little difference: he runs them both. To mark the accession to the status of British chapter Martin appointed as General Secretary the Dowager Lady Birdwood, whose activities are well known and have been chronicled in the pages of this journal many times before.

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Out
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All the way with
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We love
You

Don Martin and Lady Jane Birdwood wait to greet Dictator Thieu of South Vietnam at London Airport in 1973.

WACL's 1978 World Conference was the subject of an excellent study by the *Washington Post* (reprinted in *Searchlight* 38) which established beyond doubt that "forces were stirring within the WACL – forces of authoritarianism, neo-fascism, racial hierarchy and anti-Semitism".

This article was the subject of a scathing article in *On Target,* which, revealing its true colours declared that "Ever since the League of Rights and similar organisations joined the World Anti Communism League and started to inject some understanding of the link between Big Finance and Communism, there has been an international campaign to smear WACL". The idea of a link between 'Big Finance' and Communism is all too familiar to those acquainted with the Jewish-Communist Conspiracy theory which has been and remains the lynchpin of Nazi ideology.

Usually however, *On Target* is just a little more circumspect when it comes to dragging into its columns material likely to put off the more orthodox Conservative right wingers it is trying to influence. Not always however. Last September, for instance, Martin was driven to declare in an article about the *Holocaust* television series, that "This is not the place for an inquiry into the German's *alleged* (our emphasis) 'genocide policy'" and that the series constituted "a massive and most costly psychological warfare exercise . . . set in motion over the entire globe by Zionism's network of innumerable clandestine organisations". He goes on to cite Butz's *Hoax of the Twentieth Century* which argues that the Nazi holocaust did not occur.

Only last May, with Don Martin fresh from the WACL conference in Paraguay and the Youth WACL conference in Nicaragua, *On Target's* plans for its political opponents in the future were spelled out with breathtaking honesty. Speaking of the Labour Party, it declared that "An isolated Marxist intellectual party without mass support can one day and without difficulty be firmly crushed by a patriotic government".

In the course of its publishing activities through Bloomfield Books, which itself caters largely for devotees of the conspiracy theory, the League of Rights entered, in 1975, into a "unique scheme of co-operation" between themselves and the Britons Publishing House, described by Martin as "a sympathetic publisher". Britons, however, is more than simply a commercial publisher: established in 1919 by Henry Hamilton Beamish, it holds the dubious distinction of being the most long established purveyor of anti-Semitic literature in this country. Until the Nazi British Movement recently produced their own edition, Britons were the sole publishers for many years of *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion,* which they steadfastly refuse to accept is nothing more than a scurrilous forgery. During the pre-war years Beamish was close to the highest circles of the German Nazi Party, the result being his internment in Rhodesia when hostilities broke out.

If a man is known by the company he keeps, it isn't difficult to sum up the British League of Rights. It is an organisation with its roots firmly in the traditions of Nazism and anti-Semitism; an organisation still firmly wedded to that tradition, despite the soft-sell politics peddled as a rule in *On Target.* It is a record which must surely give rise to considerable disquiet amongst the various pressure groups in which it has assiduously implanted itself, and to which we will turn our attention in the future □

The Parliamentary Leper Returns

THE right wing swing in the Tory party was reflected in their choice of candidates for the General Election last May. Two of those elected are worth mentioning since they are not exactly without a certain amount of "form" in the political arena of the extreme right.

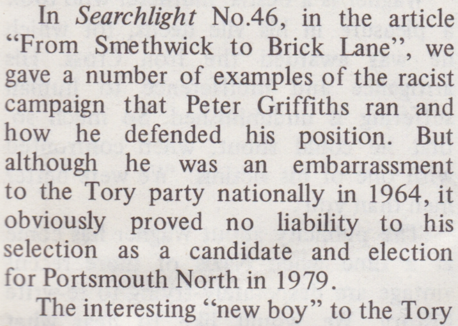
Peter Griffiths was returned as member of Parliament for Portsmouth North after an absence from the House of Commons of 15 years. The last time he was an MP was in 1964 when he was the centre of a political storm after he defeated the then Foreign Secretary, Patrick Gordon-Walker, after a racist campaign that became notorious throughout the world.

Griffiths first achieved political notoriety in the wake of the activities of the newly formed Immigration Control Committees and by 1962 his racist faction had started to make inroads into the Smethwick council and Conservative Party. Within two years they had taken control of the council and he was returned as MP for Smethwick. When he took his seat in the House of Commons he was called a "Parliamentary leper" by the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson.

In *Searchlight* No.46, in the article "From Smethwick to Brick Lane", we gave a number of examples of the racist campaign that Peter Griffiths ran and how he defended his position. But although he was an embarrassment to the Tory party nationally in 1964, it obviously proved no liability to his selection as a candidate and election for Portsmouth North in 1979.

The interesting "new boy" to the Tory benches is one Harvey Procter, the MP for Basildon. He was active in the Monday Club in the early '70s when there was a certain amount of involvement with the National Front. Harvey Procter was an active supporter of Immigration Control groups led by Joy Page and Bea Carthew as the accompanying photograph shows.

From the left: Bea Carthew, Harvey Procter, Joy Page, Lady Birdwood and George Young.



Young boys wearing Swastika badges at the BM Rally.

The fascists were out in force on June 23, with both the National Front and British Movement organising demonstrations through the streets of London.

While the Front were descending upon Downing Street to protest at the admission of Vietnamese refugees into Britain, BM were parading through Westminster protesting against "Communist violence".

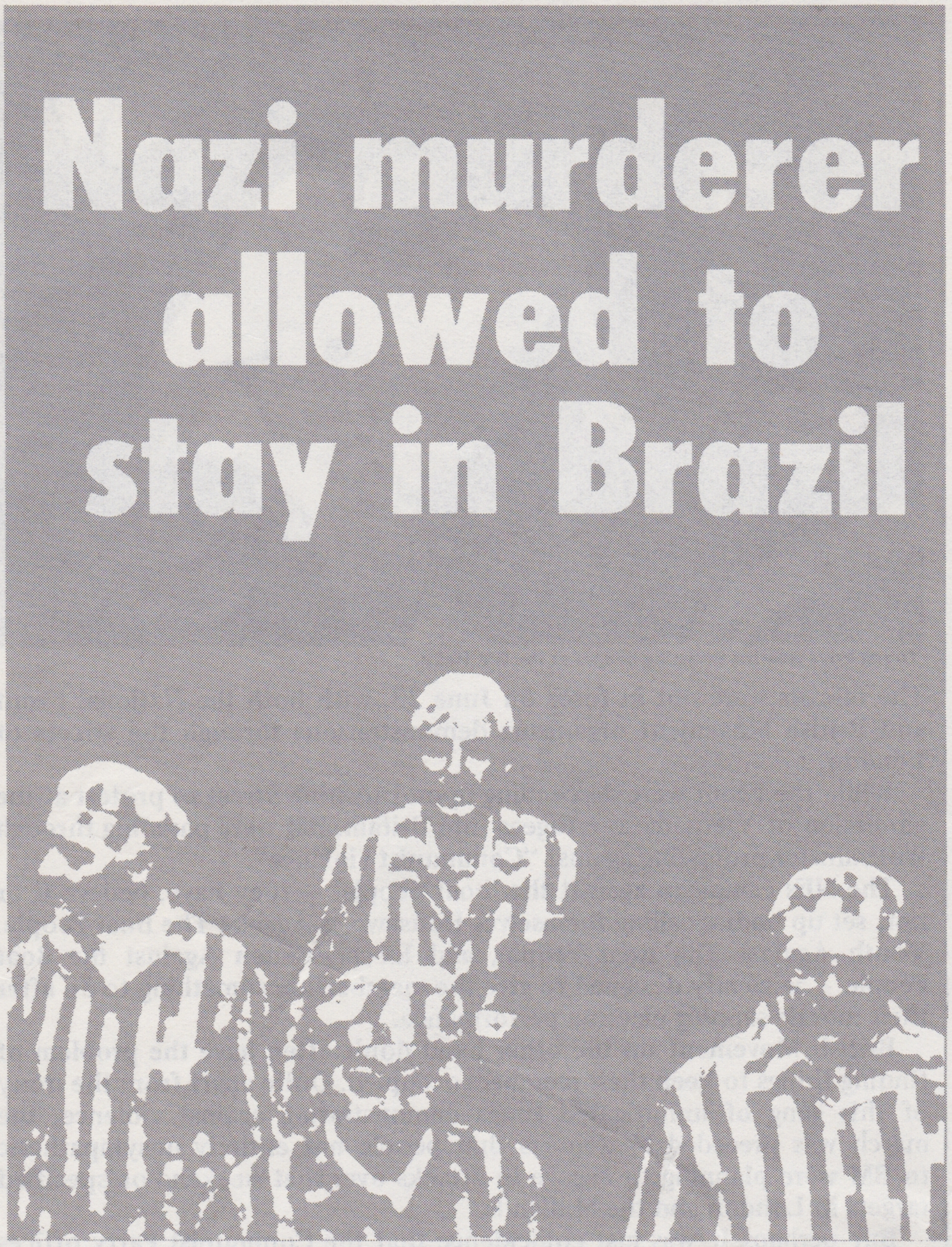
The NFs campaign against the 'boat people' – they have, believe it or not, set up bodies calling themselves Housewives Against The Boat People, Youth Against The Boat People, and Ex-servicemen Against the Boat People – is clearly designed to give the membership something to do after their morale-sapping election performance.

British Movement on the other hand don't often have the problem of finding things to keep their members occupied. Quite apart from the irony of this gang of unmitigated thugs demonstrating against violence, the march was preceded by reports that people not entirely unsympathetic to BM were planning to engage in attacks over that weekend on specified targets in London and the Midlands.

But perhaps it was just coincidence that the Communist Party offices at Essex Street in Birmingham were seriously damaged by fire on the Friday night. The police are investigating the possibility of arson.

Some of the 150 BM followers. Police estimated 850 at the NF March.

Nazi murderer allowed to stay in Brazil



'He didn't eat his lunch if he didn't kill two or three Jews'. 'He' is Gustav Franz Wagner, deputy commandant of the Sobibor death camp in Poland. Sobibor was purpose built for the Nazi 'Final Solution'. Of the 250,000 people who passed through its gates, only 34 survived. In just 15 months, the rest were gassed, shot or beaten to death. Those who did live remain haunted by the memories of the slaughter they witnessed there.

Wagner also survived, with a little help from his friends in the Vatican, to escape to Brazil and celebrate Hitler's birthday every year. But now, thanks to the relentless efforts of Simon Wiesenthal of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, Wagner is sitting in a Brazilian police cell awaiting the conclusion of extradition proceedings. He is wanted by the Polish, West German, Austrian and Israeli authorities.

In a recent BBC TV *Panorama* programme, survivors of Sobibor recalled Wagner's fiendish cruelty. A woman told how, *'You knew he needed blood. He had to have it like a drunk who needs a drink. Once, Wagner was hiding behind a window and he saw a boy pick up a can of sardines. He came in, pulled us all out, put us in a half-circle and shot him right in front of us'.*

A male survivor described how he *'saw him killing a father and a son with the handle of an axe. He kept on hitting them and the sound of the cries of these people was like the sound of a wild animal. He beat them for a few minutes until they were dead'.*

A Nazi from 1931, Wagner was no amateur murderer. He had served a long apprenticeship in brutality. He had participated in the gassing of the mentally and physically handicapped at Schloss Hartheim, where the 'Euthanasia' programme had acted as an efficiency test for the idea of mass extermination. His fellow murderers there were, he told *Panorama* reporter, Tom Bower, 'a lot of young healthy people'.

As to the murders, *Wagner does not deny them* . . . only that he was involved. Likewise with his attitude to the accusations about Sobibor. Despite the incontrovertible proof of his previous activity at Schloss Hartheim, despite the fact that he was handpicked for a key position at Sobibor, despite the overwhelming evidence of the survivors against him, Wagner remains totally indifferent and merely protests his *own* innocence.

He does not deny that the camp existed, nor does he deny that mass extermination took place there . . . only that he was involved. He claimed in the *Panorama* interview that he never killed or hit anyone. Questioned about the mass killings, he said, repeating the classic Nazi defence, 'We knew it was wrong. It was the Führer's orders. We were only obeying orders from higher up. We had a feeling that if Germany lost the war we'd be saddled with the consequences. Germany called me to wage war, gave me a job, told me what my duties were. Now they punish me for it'.

Wagner's *sole* regret is that the Nazis were defeated. 'Everything went wrong' . . . 'That Germany lost the war?' . . . 'Yes' . . . 'Not that you worked at Sobibor?' . . . 'No, that Germany lost the war'.

Wagner is a bestial murderer who took a pleasure in his vile deeds, for which he was awarded the Iron Cross. His arrogance and indifference to human suffering is undiminished. So much so, that he could shout, when confronted with one of his victims: 'We were better men than you'.

The publicity about Wagner has come at a time when Nazis of more recent vintage are desperately trying to re-write history. We would like to hear what Richard Harwood-Verrall has to say about Wagner's admission of the death camps. Or is that a hoax too?

Equally, it is important that Wagner should be brought to belated justice at a time when yet another prominent German politician, Christian Democrat Euro MP, Hans Jahn, has had to resign his seat. He wrote a book in which he referred to Jews as 'an utterly wretched race'.

This month, the West German Parliament debates whether to end prosecution of 'ex' Nazis. There should be no thought of that until all the Wagners of this world, with their blood-soaked hands, are hunted down . . . including those in German politics, today.

Since this was written the Brazilian Supreme Court decided not to allow the extradition of Wagner. It seems highly likely, however, that he will be confined to a psychiatric hospital as there are widespread rumours that people will be seeking vengeance in Brazil □

Tribute to Blair Peach

On June 15th, thousands of teachers, anti-racists, and members of the immigrant community attended the funeral in East London of Blair Peach, who was murdered in April while protesting against the National Front rally in Southall Town Hall.

Amongst the tributes paid to Blair Peach at the ceremony was the following one from an ex-pupil of his at Phoenix School, where he taught physically delicate children.

In memory

IN 1970 my family moved to the East End of London and I started at Phoenix School, Bow Road. The teacher that helped me most during those difficult years of adolescence was Blair Peach. He was a different kind of teacher. His interest in his pupils was not confined to the schoolroom but extended into their homes, where he would visit and give advice and practical help wherever he could.

I am of mixed race, and it was for me and others of my colour that Blair Peach went to Southall on that fateful day. He was a man of high ideals, but ideals are no good if they are not put into practice. He always practised what he preached. At school he instituted a special class to help those children who had difficulty in reading, and those classes were extended into the school holidays. He did this because he cared about those children and wanted them to be free thinking adults who would not be pushed about by the system. Blair's interest in me extended into adult life and he became a respected and trusted friend of my family.

Blair was murdered while exercising his right to express his opinion in this 'democratic' country of ours. His political opinions were based on the fact that he cared for others regardless of race, creed or colour and his murder should be regarded in the same light as the killing of Steve Biko. I know I will never forget him and he will always be remembered as a friend of the people.

ERNEST CARR, Ex-pupil Phoenix School

Apartheid in Midlands Nightclubs?

LAST month we reported the campaign in Birmingham around racist nightclubs, notably Polyanna's. Since then we have heard about other clubs in the Midlands where blacks have been turned away or where the bouncers are openly racist.

In Wolverhampton, the Lafayette club operates a 'members only' policy, and many young black people, who go there basically because they have nowhere else to go, claim that their valid membership cards are often disputed or they are asked to pay extra to get in. The 'Village' nightclub in Newport, Shropshire, is known to have a definite entry rule of 'no sectarian headress' – that is, no hats or turbans as at Polyanna's in Birmingham.

Recently an incident occurred at the Lafayette club which indirectly showed up the racist attitudes of the people working there and the management. On June 1st, a band called the Angelic Upstarts played. During their first number several people were heard shouting 'Seig heil' and 'up the NF', and then, in what was obviously an organised effort, about fifteen youths on both sides of the audience moved into the middle and started fighting. Before the band could get off the stage, glasses and chairs were hurled at them. The lead guitarist said afterwards, "It was definitely an organised thing. We could see these guys pushing their way forward. They weren't punks or skinheads or anything like that; they were all wearing flared jeans and T-shirts, just ordinary guys.

"Beer glasses were coming from absolutely everywhere. The violence just spread. It was really crazy."

At least three of those that started the fighting were known to be carrying knives, and during the fight the manager of the Upstarts was stabbed in the stomach and two fans were taken to hospital with knife wounds. Several other people were also injured in the fighting.

The reaction of the management was at first that it was an ordinary bar fight which their own bouncers could handle, and consequently it was some time before the police were called. This contrasts very much with the way blacks are often slung out at the slightest provocation to police cars hovering outside. NF supporters are actually discouraged from entering the club, in theory, because they are bad for business, but it is quite easy for them to get in. They usually meet at a pub round the corner called the George and come straight round to the club afterwards, which they did on this occasion.

Many people have complained at the behaviour of the bouncers, who are often insulting to blacks, allow other whites to make provocative, racist remarks, spit beer at people from the balcony and knock people around if they disagree with them. The students union at Wolverhampton Polytechnic are in the process of collecting evidence of racism at this club and others in the area with a view to conducting a similar campaign of pickets and boycott as at Polyanna's.

The campaign in Birmingham has had assurances from the local T&GWU that they will circulate all branches of the union in the Midlands advising members to boycott Polyanna's, and the local branch of the Musician's Union are raising the issue nationally. The Saturday night pickets are still going on, and less and less people are going into the club. It seems very likely that the management of the clubs in Birmingham are going to have to change their racist policies, and the Birmingham campaign will go on until they do ☐

Obituary

ON Sunday June 3, Jagmohan Joshi, General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (Great Britain), collapsed after a heart attack shortly before he was due to speak at a rally he had helped to organise against racialist violence and racialist immigration laws. He was rushed to hospital but suffered a further attack and died at 2.30 pm.

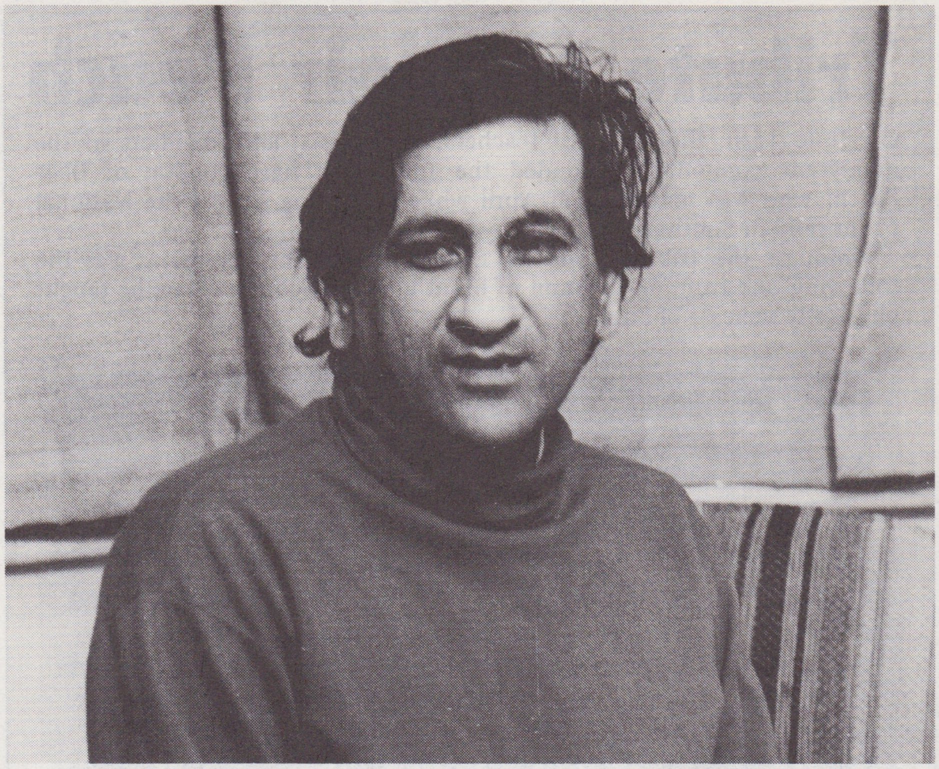
His sudden death is not only a severe blow to the IWA but to all opponents of racism and fascism. Unlike some who are deemed "leaders of the immigrant community" or "spokesmen" by sections of the media and Race Relations officials, often on the basis of little substance, Jagmohan Joshi built his reputation not on membership of the "right" committees but on his involvement and leadership of an organisation with a genuine mass membership.

When Joshi came to this country in 1958 he already had a wealth of experience behind him. In 1951, at the age of 15, he was contributing to *Naya Zamana*, the Urdu language newspaper of the Communist Party of India, and he later edited the cultural section of the paper. He was also active in the leadership of the student movement when he went to university.

Within months of arriving in Britain he was actively working as a member of the IWA in Birmingham and was one of the key figures in the decision to transform the IWA from a Midlands organisation (the IWA was formed in Coventry in 1938) into one organised nationally. By 1964 it was transformed into the largest active immigrant movement in Britain with a registered membership of 28,000.

Alongside his work with the IWA, Joshi was deeply involved in combatting racialism and the various fascist groups that were active at that time. It was also the period when the Immigration Control Committees were starting to emerge and he was physically attacked on more than one occasion by the fascist stewards (members of the British Action Party, BAP) at their meetings.

One of the most important contributions that he made at that time was to take the initiative in the formation of the Co-ordinating Committee Against Racial Discrimination (CCARD) with the late Victor Yates MP as its chairman (see *Searchlight* 46). It was a broad campaigning movement linking together some 26 organisations which did some impressive work combatting racialism and it was under its leadership that the racist victories at Smethwick between 1962-64 were contained and then reversed.



Vron Ware.

One of Joshi's most important attributes was his adherence to principles and he proved it time and time again over the years. He was made more than one tempting offer, complete with large salary and expenses, to join various government bodies, but he dismissed them out of hand. That was not his way. Rather would he scathingly expose the many glaring anomalies and racism that existed in the Race Relations and Immigration policies of various governments.

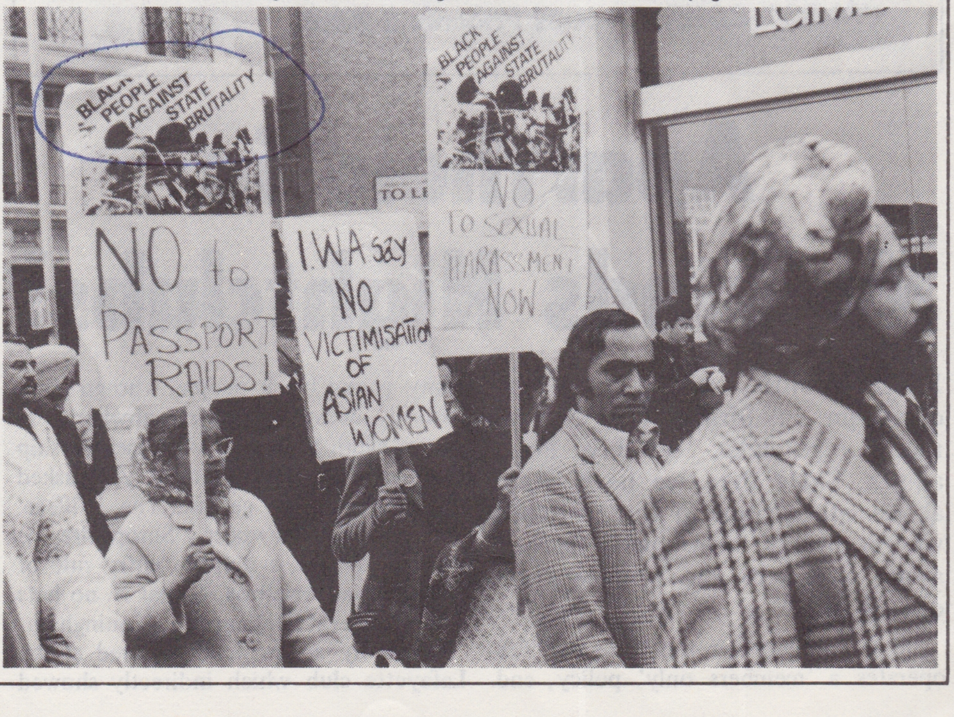
Despite the handicap of poor eyesight in recent years Joshi maintained his high level of activity and was prominent in organising resistance within the Asian and Black community against racist violence.

Under his leadership, members of the IWA were urged to involve themselves in the trade union movement and as a result many firms were unionised, particularly in the small foundries in the Midlands.

There was another side to the life and work of Jagmohan Joshi. He was a much loved Urdu poet (he wrote under the name Asar Hashiarpuri) and it was an impressive sight to see him hold a 2,000 strong audience spellbound, hanging onto his every word. He recited his poetry with great feeling and a passion that transcended language.

Jagmohan Joshi could truly say: "All my life and all my strength were devoted to the greatest cause of all – the liberation of mankind" ☐

Asian women demonstrate against racist immigration laws (see also back page). *Vron Ware.*


BLACK PEOPLE AGAINST STATE BRUTALITY
BLACK PEOPLE AGAINST STATE BRUTALITY
NO to PASSPORT RAIDS!
I.W.A say NO VICTIMISATION OF ASIAN WOMEN
NO TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT NOW

George Lindo story continues

On June 8, just 15 months after he was sent to prison on a robbery charge, George Lindo won an appeal against his conviction, a result that was a complete vindication of the determined campaign waged by the George Lindo Action Committee and the journal *Bradford Black*.

Everything about the arrest, charge, "confession" and trial of George Lindo was, to use the words of the three Appeal Court judges, "most disturbing" to put it mildly, and is the perfect answer to those who are campaigning for increased police powers.

George Lindo was originally arrested on August 3, 1977, following a robbery at one of William Hill's betting offices in Bradford. He was eventually released on bail after the police claimed he had signed a full confession, and was subsequently charged. Lindo claimed however that he was told that unless he signed a confession he would be held indefinitely and upon his release was immediately taken back to the police station by his solicitor where he made another statement.

The police eventually charged Lindo with robbing a betting shop of £67 and although members of the staff of William Hill failed to identify him and his mother claimed he was at home having a meal at the time of the robbery, he appeared in court in February 1978. Certainly the decision to prosecute was an odd one since the raider was hooded and wielded a knife in the course of the robbery. George Lindo had an alibi from his mother and his workmates, had never been in trouble with the law and no forensic evidence linked him with the crime. The only "evidence" that the police had was the disputed statement that Lindo had immediately rejected upon his release and which was later found on examination to be couched in terminology that was at varience with George Lindo's normal mode of speech.

Despite these facts he was found guilty and sentenced to two years imprisonment. This immediately led to the formation of the Action Committee which pledged itself to campaign for the release of George Lindo. It was in the process of that campaign that a number of facts clearly emerged showing that there had been a perversion of justice. On January 18, 1979 Lindo's solicitor applied to the Appeal Court in London and was given leave to appeal against sentence and conviction. But an application for bail was turned down.

Six weeks later there were dramatic developments when the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions approached Lindo's solicitor urging him to make an immediate application for bail. This was duly done on March 8. In court the DPP, who had taken over the case from the West Yorkshire Police, supported the application for bail and George Lindo was released from Preston Prison later that afternoon.

The release of George Lindo cannot however wipe out what took place in Bradford during the last 15 months. On the contrary if justice is to be seen to be done the extraordinary sequence of events that sent an innocent man to prison for 15 months have to be brought out into the open, and those that were responsible for what transpired must be punished.

A run down of the facts produced by the Defence Committee will show how astonishing it was that any court of law could have sent someone to prison for 2 years.

1. The evidence that convicted Lindo came from Det. Con. Craven and Det. Con. David Brierley. Yet a month before Lindo was sentenced, Geoffrey Elliot, who had signed a "confession" admitting rape in January 1977, was cleared when someone else admitted responsibility. Craven was the officer mentioned in that case. Det. Con. Brierley admitted fabricating statements in the 'Yorkshire Ripper' case and resigned from the police. The Director of Public Prosecutions is now studying a report on the matter. Despite these facts being known and publicised by the Action Committee it took until March 1979 before George Lindo was released on bail.

2. Before Judge Bennett passed sentence on Lindo his lawyer made a final plea in which he made three points, (a) Lindo was of previous good character, (b) there was doubt about the "confession", (c) enquiries were going on into previous cases concerning some of the police involved in the case. Judge Bennett dismissed the plea and said he thought that an example ought to be made of Lindo.

3. Members of the Lindo family have complained that they have been victims of harassment by the police because of their determination to seek justice through the Action Committee. According to press releases by the Action Committee these have included threats to the effect that they would make sure that Lindo would be "back inside within the next six months".

Emphasising the complete lack of evidence in the case against George Lindo, Lord Justice Lawton said when upholding the appeal: "There was no evidence at all worth talking about to support the prosecutions case, other than that of the two detectives". It would appear that in Bradford however that proved more than enough to send an innocent black person to prison for two years.

Another issue that the Action Committee raised was the difficulty in getting together a jury that would have included blacks and Asians, and as a consequence Lindo had to face an all white jury. This is another aspect of the situation in Bradford that causes a great deal of disquiet.

When the Lindo case was first reported in *Searchlight* (June, 1978 No.36) we concluded the article as follows: "George Lindo sits behind bars protesting his innocence. But he can be assured of one thing. It isn't the end of the George Lindo story but merely the beginning". George Lindo vindicated that statement when he decided to take civil action against the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Whatever George Lindo decides to do through the legal process there should also be an immediate investigation into what appears to be a deliberate attempt to "get" Lindo on the part of certain members of the Bradford police and it must be made immediately clear that harassment of the Lindo family must cease. In view of the comments of the three Appeal Court judges any inquiry should also include the handling of the case, and comments by Judge Bennett.

Meanwhile the Action Committee has announced that it is to set up a commission of inquiry, details of which will soon be published ☐

Growing up in Harlem

Rosa Guy is a black American writer and one of the founders of the Harlem Writers' Guild. Her latest novel, *Edith Jackson,* has recently been published in this country by Victor Gollancz. It is the third in a series that describes the lives of three teenagers, West Indian and black American, in and around New York. We met Rosa Guy and asked her about the situation in Harlem and about her own work.

Vron Ware.

THE book is designed primarily for teenagers living in the same situation as its main characters. Edith Jackson contends with a degenerating situation that the aids of the state cannot help. The limitations of foster parents, an orphanage, welfare workers and the educational system leave her to her own resources. Readers follow several years of her life as she makes decisions and plans for herself, realises that they are inappropriate and flexibly goes on. They get to see her catch up with her predicament by picking up knowledge from every available resource; alertly watching peoples' faces, behaviour and conversations. Edith is street-wise and the presence of street knowledge and street language is one of the pleasures of the book. The suddenness of the thought and the quickness of the language work well to convey her necessary and reliable alertness.

Such a book has a very specific aim – to address a special audience and to make their lives more knowable to them and to others in a way which conventional literature has not managed to do. Although written for teenagers, the book does not make sacrifices because it is designed for a young audience. There is not a stroke of condescension in it. Also, it is politically and emotionally acute without any self-pity or declamation. Readers are not handed ideas but get to enjoy participating with the book. Edith Jackson narrates her own story and readers become involved by thinking along with her and by reacting to the way that she thinks. And, finally, the book uses colloquial language effortlessly, in a manner that makes the rhythm and the tone of sentences evident in the process of reading. This makes the book unusually lively with the warmth of human talk.

To others besides its specifically intended audience, the book offers a rare opportunity of imagining a type of life that we could more simply forget. That Rosa Guy has written a book of minority literature – without the faults often associated with political fiction and with great sureness, reveals one of the successes of the black movement. No teenagers were reading a book like this in 1951.

THE book is a result of Rosa Guy's own experiences and the co-operation that is stimulated by political consciousness. In the late 1950s, she and others formed the Harlem Writers Guild *"because we had decided that there were many of us around who had a lot to say. We didn't want to say it in the same classical way . so that we really had to go back and change, intensify our language".* The Writers Guild offered Rosa Guy her own well-suited form of education, enabling her to achieve more than she could have done by returning to high school.

"There were so many of us like me who were not really well educated, still deciding to go back to school and struggle, who wanted to write and who felt it was just too difficult." She and others read, wrote and criticised in workshops. This combination of personal struggle and constructing an appropriate form of help

is the main theme of the novel. The effort is not portrayed as a simple one that comes to a resolution.

In the interview with *Searchlight,* Rosa Guy summarised the point of the book:

> *"The struggle of course is continual. Edith has no choice on that level. But she does have a choice to continue not to be a victim . . . Somewhere along the line you have to take the stand that you are not going to be a victim. And then you have to struggle and the struggle is one continuous struggle after another. Then you can even choose your arena, that is, where you're going to struggle and how."*

In this interview, Rose Guy describes a problem that has not yet come to England. She fears that the difficulties of living in Harlem have become so much worse since her growing up, that what was possible for her, is less likely now:

> *"When I went to school we had bad education, but we sort of managed. But now they're not managing."*

In her second book, *The Friends,* she describes a chaotic and antagonistic classroom. When we asked her if this was realistic, she thinks of that description of the situation as out of date. *"It's worse. That was nice compared to now. You have kids beating up teachers, really blacking their eyes".* She sees the violence of the classroom and of Harlem generally as a consequence of the destruction of the borough by the city.

> *"Harlem now is really a deteriorating city, as I have tried to show in that scene where Edith comes back to New York and goes down Eighth Avenue. If one would ask me, I would say that's my most powerful scene. It was something that traumatised me. I walked up, or rode up, Eighth Avenue at three o'clock one morning going home. The destruction of all the buildings . . . you know they were bombed out . . . and pillars of concrete were lying all over; young kids, at three o'clock in the morning were playing and people were out there as though it was daylight. I just got the wildest feeling, I didn't believe it. They've allowed it to deteriorate to that point. It's impossible to have people living in bombed out houses and have a certain level of dignity."*

Political organisation could be a means of directing hatred – of making it effective and intelligent.

> *"I think they should politicise their struggle, because then they're not fighting shadows – they know basically what's happening; where they come from, everything. When you have a direction in your struggle, you know. But if you don't have then everyone's your enemy."*

Rosa Guy would like to contribute to the political awareness that enables people to more actively control their lives and which lessens random violence. But she is not optimistic. As well as the problem of her book describing a world that already contains even fewer possibilities, there is another difficulty:

> *"We writers would like to politicise the situation but then you're writing for an audience that isn't reading."*

This is viewing the situation at its grimest. What is important is that good minority writing is available in the United States, and yet it is not being published here. Other voices, other types of speech, and a greater knowledge of different lives are tossed into the realm of public discussion and awareness. *Edith Jackson* is a book which works its way well into readers' minds. It is good both because it does what other books do not do and because it does it well. We may not see something like it written and published in England for some time to come □

Review

Big Flame: **Sexuality and Fascism** (10p)

THIS pamphlet is a collection of three pieces from a day-school that the Marxist organisation Big Flame held in Birmingham at the end of last year. Two of them are short descriptions of areas which have already been written about – the National Front's attitude to women and the Nazi German experience. Still, if you haven't looked at the other material the two articles are well worth reading. But it's the first piece that breaks new ground – a stimulating and provocative discussion of why men can find attractions in fascism. The writer talks about Germany in the '20s, filled with ex-soldiers, brooding in beerhalls or marching around the streets, searching again for the lost comradeship of the trenches. Ideas that had been developed in Germany before the 1914-18 war about the basis of society being a brotherhood of men had a real appeal for these men. The article claims that this set of ideas was later replaced by the better-known Nazi emphasis on the family but that in the early stages of street fighting it was an important mobilising force.

The article then moves on to Britain today, a country where once again fascism has become a threat. Here, the writer claims, the traditional beliefs in work and skill are being undermined by the assembly line and unemployment. Men, once the breadwinners, are challenged by women going out to work. In these circumstances an ideology that harks back to the past and to restoring the old certainties can have a deep appeal. Using quotations from NF literature it is argued that the NF is making such an appeal, part of which calls for men to regain their previous status.

The essential point of the essay is well-made, that Nazis build "their main support from the problems of everyday life". If anything it is too well-made, and what is *one* aspect of how fascism works on people is so focused on in the piece that it almost seems to be the only one. Frustrated masculinity is no more the sole origin of a fascist movement than unemployment or inflation or the themes the NF harp on when they speak to women. But it is part of its ugly attraction: the politics of the family, of sex roles, of argument of what is 'natural', is part of fascism just as it should be part of the fight back. The article is not without its faults (No, the Festival of Light, pernicious as it is, is not an ally of the Front) and it could mislead readers into the fruitless search for a single cause of extreme right wing policies.

Despite these reservations the pamphlet is worthwhile reading as a useful contribution to the ongoing debate about the nature of fascism – all for 10p too □

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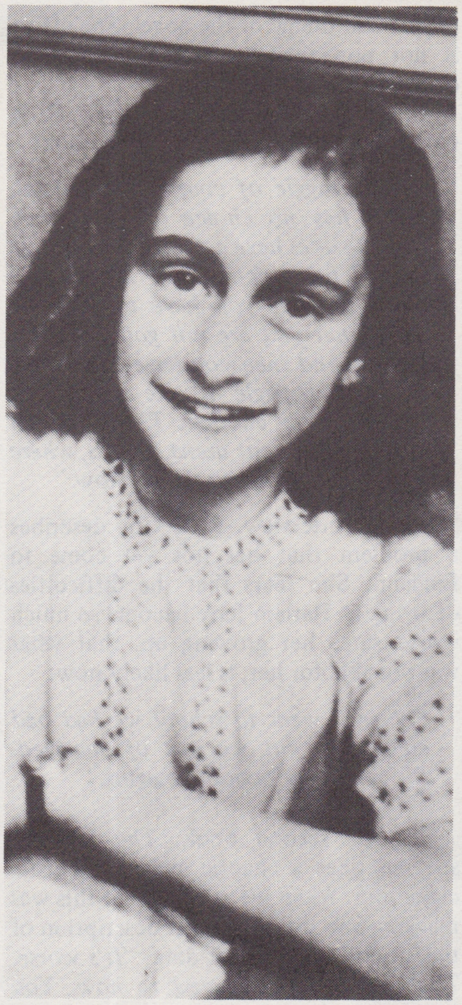
The Importance of Anne Frank



June 12th is the 50th anniversary of the birth of Anne Frank, the 13 year old girl who was murdered in the Nazi extermination camps and who left behind the diaries she wrote while she was in hiding. The message and life of Anne Frank has been perpetuated in the Anne Frank Foundation in Amsterdam, which is dedicated to combating the evils of racism and promoting friendship between people.

On June 12th, 1929, Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt am Main, the second daughter of Otto Frank and Edith Frank-Holländer. In 1933, she and her family fled, like many Germans, to the Netherlands. But the security found there lasted only a few years. In May 1940 Holland was occupied by the Germans and again danger was imminent.

Otto Frank realised, earlier than others, that the family had to go into hiding sooner or later. When in July 1942 going into hiding became inevitable, the family moved to the Annex of the House at Prinsengracht 263 which was adapted to serve as a hide-out. The events of this time are described by Anne in her Diary.

When the people who lived in the Annex were arrested and taken away, the Diarypapers were left behind. The Franks and their friends were transported to concentration camps and all – with the sole exception of Otto Frank – died there. Anne died in the spring of 1945 in Bergen Belsen.

After his return to Amsterdam, Otto Frank received Anne's papers from Miep, his secretary and one of his war-time helpers who had saved the Diary – and kept the papers during the rest of the war. Friends of Otto Frank persuaded him to published the Diary. The first Dutch edition appeared in 1947 with the title *The Secret Annex*, a title chosen by Anne Frank herself.

The Dutch edition was followed by French, German and English translations and the Diary has now appeared in more than fifty languages and countries and has an estimated circulation of fourteen million copies.

In 1957 the Anne Frank Foundation was established to prevent the threatening demolition of the Secret Annex, and to propagate the ideals bequeathed to the world by Anne Frank in her Diary.

June 12th, 1979, the commemoration of Anne's fiftieth birthday, serves as a new opportunity to reflect upon phenomenae which remind us of the ideology to which Anne Frank as well as millions of others fell victim. Discrimination in many fields, oppression and violations of human rights are, sadly enough, day to day routine. Many countries have regimes of an undisguised fascist character, but even in our democracies tendencies may develop which threaten fundamental democratic rights. It is frightening to notice the ease with which Jewish Dutchmen, for example, are sometimes placed in a different position if this facilitates the trade with the Middle East. In this way Jewish Dutchmen become Dutch Jews again. Other minorities also fall victim to such, often hard to prove, discrimination.

In a technocratic society, it may be difficult to recognise aspects of fascist ideology: a new fascism will certainly not look like the old one. No fascist coup d'etat, but a gradual erosion of basic democratic rights threaten the Western societies.

Certain expressions of fascist ideology however, do resemble all aspects of their historical counterpart. Neo-Nazi groups openly associate in their propaganda with the ideology of the Third Reich. In their efforts to rehabilitate Nazism it is necessary to deny flatly the Nazi mass murders. The extermination of millions of people is even depicted as a "premeditated Jewish propaganda-stunt meant to raise the eternal pity of the world". A flood of propaganda material is distributed by these groups, varying from war-memoirs of high-ranking German officers proudly describing their heroic deeds to reports of concentration camp-guards who claim they never saw anything else but pleasant and well organised "work-camps". This rehabilitation-strategy makes it also necessary to call Anne Franks Diary a fraud. The influence the Diary still exerts in the formation of opinion about Nazism was and still is tremendous. It is tragic that Otto Frank is forced to take legal action against this libel. At this moment two trials, one in Hamburg, the other in Frankfurt, take place in the FRG against neo-Nazis, who call the Diary a fabrication.

It is remarkable that Heinz Roth, the defendant in the Frankfurt trial, is assisted in his defence by a Mr Faurisson, a professor at the Lyon University. This Mr Faurisson has, at several occasions, expressed the view that it is not true that millions of Jews have been murdered and that the gas chambers in Auschwitz were only used to delouse prisoners clothes.

This course of events apparently means a great physic strain to Otto Frank, who turned 90 this year.

The Anne Frank Foundation is involved in these trials and will sue where possible. The number of visitors to the Secret Annex increases from year to year; in 1978 294,833 persons visited the Anne Frank House. Experience shows that many, mainly young, visitors are hardly informed about the Second World War. The Anne Frank Foundation is therefore developing teaching materials to be used in schools □

WHAT THEIR PAPERS SAY

IN the public mind the figures of John Tyndall and Martin Webster are inextricably linked. This pair, as physically ill-assorted as Laurel and Hardy, have been comrades-in-arms since the early 1960s. League of Empire Loyalists, National Socialist Movement, Greater Britain Movement, and finally the National Front – Tyndall and Webster have trod the same dismal paths.

Recently both have had more than their fair share of limelight on television and in the national newspapers. Both seemed to be preparing themselves for greater things. But now, in the wake of the Front's election performance, they must console each other, and harken back to the good old days when they could raise their spirits by a jolly jack-booted parade.

However, the public image of the duo as pals-in-crime is misleading in one crucial respect. Far from being pals, the two try not to let their mutual hostility become too apparent. Still, evidence of the rancour and jealousy comes to the surface from time to time.

In February's edition of *Spearhead* there was a curious piece by Martin Webster in which he claimed that the Front doesn't have a fully developed ideology and that the prime task of the party should be to develop such an ideology. At the time we mentioned that this appeared to be the first rumblings of a Strasserite revival, the like of which split the party in 1974 (*Searchlight*, 46). The May/June edition of *Spearhead* contains more indications that Tyndall and Webster are finding ideological justifications for their long-standing animosities.

Predictably Tyndall has not been able to resist Webster's charge that the Front needs an ideology. It should be remembered that Tyndall once claimed that *Mein Kampf* was his text-book and that it was his aim to present National Socialism with a British face to the public. Thus for Tyndall, the Front has always possessed an ideology, although for obvious reasons he can't publicly spell out just what the ideology is. Nevertheless the Front's headmaster has always let it be known by winks and nods that he hasn't changed his faithful pupils' textbook.

In his response to Webster, Tyndall decides to take the stance of the headmaster dealing with an over-enthusiastic milk-monitor: "Martin Webster's article dealing with the need for 'ideological development' in the National Front was a stimulating essay, rich in colourful prose which ensures that the writings of the author are never dull to read". But enough is enough, and bounds must not be overstepped; and so Tyndall announces in his most formal of formal tones:

> *"To this my first impulse is to be inhibited from taking issue with the article's theme, but take issue I must."*

All the first- and second-form members of the Front must be shown the unedifying spectacle of the milk-monitor being firmly put in his place.

Tyndall's dressing-down is quite straightforward – he merely claims that the Front does have an ideology:

> *"Do we need an ideology? Of course we do and we already have it! It is a simple and straightforward ideology rooted in a very basic view of life and of history. It is an ideology which sees the world as an arena of competing nations and races and which impels us to ensure that in this arena our nation and race is a winner and not a loser."*

So straightforward, except that the headmaster sets no extra homework of boning up the ideology from the textbook. Just what the ideology is Tyndall of course leaves sufficiently vague.

As always there are enough hints in *Spearhead*. For instance, there's a very strange article entitled 'Did we win in 1945? – A victor looks back', which is mainly comprised of long quotes from an unnamed "senior American diplomat". What it all amounts to is line after line of praise for Hitler's Germany. Here is just a specimen of the thoughts of "senior American diplomat", on the Germans in 1938:

> *"They are living, the first White men to stand up in Europe for hundreds of years. They will not put up with the tyranny of mindless industrialism and business, of Jews and pseudo-culture. They're going back to the manly arts. And don't their women know it!*
>
> *"Look at the photographs – those German faces and uniforms, from the confidence of 1933 to the smash of 1945 – look at them over and over until you begin to see why this was the end, the last flicker of White life."*

Perhaps the Front thinks that putting such statements in the safety of quotation marks and attributing them an anonymous diplomat (who, alas, died last year), it can escape the public taint of Nazism whilst it gets on with the job of praising Hitler.

So too does this latest issue of *Spearhead* continue its running theme of denying that the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews took place. Again there's praise for Butz's book *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* which *Spearhead* thinks exposes "a serious weakness in the Holocaust story".

But none of this type of stuff is new in *Spearhead*. It's just business as usual – the standard Nazi version of racism, sexism and anti-Semitism. Yet this is what makes Webster's comments so interesting.

Webster, of course, has known of Tyndall's obsession with *Mein Kampf* for years. Webster was barely out of school when he first met up with Tyndall. So when Webster says that the Front needs an ideology, he is not implying that the party lacks an ideology at present – rather he is saying that it needs to change the ideology of Führer Tyndall. And this is a big step for the man who has followed Tyndall down all the seamiest by-ways of post-war British Nazism.

All this indicates that there are movements occurring below the surface of the Front. Tyndall, himself, concedes that Webster's article is not just an isolated sounding-off. Tyndall says that he "forms his judgement" on Webster's ideas "not only on the contents of the article, but on numerous conversations I have had with him on the subject" (for 'conversations', read 'arguments').

Tyndall goes on to say that he doesn't want to see "differing ideological positions" in the Front. If there has to be discussion, it "will be concerned solely with the best way of getting things done" and it will be conducted "within a single and indivisible framework of ideology".

But just as Tyndall is coy about his

own ideology, he doesn't spell out how this differs from the other 'ideological positions'. It is as if the whole debate between the two old adversaries is being conducted in a hypothetical vacuum – and everyone is being too polite to mention the real issues.

But again there are some none too subtle pointers. Both Tyndall and Webster have articles which discuss the future of the Front, in the light of the General Election results. It is in these pieces that the hazy outlines of their disagreement come clearer into focus.

The title of Webster's current piece summarises its main argument: 'The NF won't be built on middle class foundations'. He starts by analysing the NF vote (or lack of it), claiming that "where there is a big swing to the Conservative Party and a substantial drop in the NF vote, almost all of the former Conservative voters who had previously voted NF deserted the NF camp to return to their 'traditional' party".

Thus the NF was left with a "hard core" vote of former Labour supporters:

> *"I would be prepared to define 'hard core' NF voters as being in the main, Working Class people with no important amount of property to protect who have no compulsion to vote Labour . . . Every party has to have a social base if it is to be more than an ephemeral receptacle for protest votes. The social base of the NF is made up of the desperate and the dispossessed among the White Working Class."*

Having said this, Webster goes on to refer to disagreements within the National Directorate about what sort of party the Front should be. Webster argues that the party's policy should reflect its 'hard core': "We must develop and stress policies which meet the needs and aspirations of those who, so far, have remained loyal to us". In other words, the National Front should present itself as a working-class party, seeking votes from disillusioned Labour supporters.

But, says Webster darkly, *"there are those in the NF who resent the fact of who and what constitutes the NF's social base at this time and who would wish for the party's social and electoral standing to be raised by inducting into our membership and into our electorship a bigger number of Middle Class persons"*.

Moreover, according to Webster (still naming no names), *"this view has been canvassed in NF policy-making circles for two years or so now – in fact since an NF National Directorate conference held at Cambridge in January 1978"*.

Although Webster doesn't spell out who opposes his view of the NF as a working-class party, the contents and tone of his piece are very different from Tyndall's 'The foundations of political power'; the current *Spearhead* gives us the first part of what is promised to be a two-part feature outlining "a strategy for political victory and how present NF activities fit into this strategy". And it appears that the NF's National Activities Organiser, one Martin Webster, is not one of the activities which fit into the strategy.

Unlike Webster, Tyndall dismisses the General Election results. Of no significance, he loftily declares, is "some poll result, which represents only an ephemeral gust in the winds of public opinion, as changeable as the weather itself".

What is important in Tyndall's view is that the Front constructs "the apparatus of a political movement" in order to be ready "when destiny calls":

> *"Those who become slaves to popular ratings on a month-to-month, or even year-to-year, basis can never concentrate on the tasks necessary to the building of this apparatus."*

If this isn't a side-swipe at Webster's ideas, then a more frontal assault is soon to follow. Tyndall goes on to outline the sort of person he wants to attract to the Front. Nothing here about the dispossessed poor whites. Far from it – Tyndall talks about political parties needing those with "professional skills", such as "leading researchers, journalists, public relations experts, lawyers" etc. All such people "need to have received education at least well beyond elementary level".

Tyndall takes encouragement from signs that the Front is attracting "a vastly greater number of talented and articulate young people" than ten years ago: "Certainly the number of very bright and very keen young people joining us today is incomparably greater than in the past". Such youngsters will expand "our leadership cadre", although Tyndall warns that "for the time being, at many local and departmental levels we suffer from a shortage of properly qualified personnel".

What these properly qualified, junior leaders should be doing, according to Tyndall, is learning how to make the National Front a profitable business enterprise. Income should be invested in "assets and amenities" to build up a "powerful institution with substantial funds and resources".

This is a far cry from Webster's party of the dispossessed. The differences are not merely disagreements about emphasis or style. They represent a continuing contradiction within the history of fascism. This is the contradiction between classic authoritarian fascism and Strasserite fascism, which attempts to give its racism a veneer of socialist rhetoric.

Tyndall, of course, is the classic authoritarian. He recognises that his appeal to the 'bright and talented' is hardly democratic in spirit, but he points to the importance of "the formation of the *elites* who later wield political power".

The last time there was a Strasserite rebellion in the National Front was four years ago, which culminated in the Strasseries breaking away to form the National Party. At that time Webster sided with Tyndall. But now it is significant that Tyndall in his reply to Webster refers to those events:

> *"Also we can avoid the ideological polarisation which weakens other parties by dividing them into splintering factions and which sorely weakened the National Front itself when it took time off to indulge in that luxury in 1974/5."*

However, there is one major difference between then and now. Previously Tyndall used *Spearhead,* the magazine which he personally owns, as a platform to combat the Strasserites. During the conflict, article after article praised the virtues of strong leadership, elites and even in one absurd instance the divine rights of kings.

Almost none of the Strasserites were given access to *Spearhead.* In their turn they gained control of the National Front paper *Britain First* and used it to attack *Spearhead* as anti-democratic and reactionary – not that they themselves were democrats in any accepted use of the word.

However, today we see the strange spectacle of Tyndall allowing his own magazine to be used for the very thing he wishes to oppose. He is resolutely opposed to ideological debate ("it would turn the National Front into nothing better than a debating society"); yet for the second issue running he allows Webster space to raise an ideological debate.

Moreover, Tyndall, the apostle of strong, unwavering leadership, is allowing Webster to criticise in public his leadership – at least by implication. One must inevitably ask why the uppity milk-monitor can't be put firmly in his place. Does he know something about the headmaster which must be hidden from the rest of the school?

It is at this point that one starts speculating about the deepest recesses of fascism's dingy underworld. Webster and Tyndall have covered too many murky trails together to allow informed guesses.

All we can do is wait to see whether, in the event of a growth of Strasserism within the Front, there will be another 'night of the long knives'. Certainly Tyndall appears to be uncommonly slow to hone his longest of long knives in preparation against his old colleague. But then these are early days yet □

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

HOLLAND

Menten: Retrial ordered

THE Dutch Supreme Court has overturned a previous court ruling and ordered that millionaire art collector and ex-SS man Peter Menten should stand trial again for war crimes.

Menten, who has been accused of the murder of 20-30 Jewish inhabitants of the Polish village of Podhoroce while he was a member of the SS in 1941, told a district court last January that he had been promised immunity from prosecution in 1952 by the now dead Justice Minister J.A. Donkers. This claim was accepted by the lower court.

The Supreme Court has now ruled that insufficient effort was made to establish why the immunity was granted, if indeed it was granted at all. Donkers' widow has maintained all along that her husband never made such an offer to Menten.

Prior to the latest ruling, the Dutch government had requested that no country should admit Menten until the Supreme Court had ruled on the District Court decision.

When police presented the warrant for his rearrest however, Menten collapsed and fell into a coma. His defence lawyers are now claiming that it is unlikely that he will ever be well enough to stand trial.

SOUTH AFRICA

NF on the run

THE South African National Front is in trouble yet again. After being threatened with the deportation of some of their leading members by the South African government, and having John Tyndall refused permission to pay them a morale-boosting visit, two of their leading figures are now being sought by the South African police in connection with fraud and kidnapping charges.

All three founder members of the organisation have now run foul of the police. George Lewis, the treasurer and Ray Hill the chairman have been accused of fraud in connection with the affairs of the 'Sons of England Patriotic and Benevolent Society' whose funds have been plundered of about £20,000. Lewis, in fact has jumped bail and fled the country taking with him a 15 year old South African boy. Police are treating it as a case of abduction.

The police have also announced that they would like to interview Jack Noble, another founder member of the Front in connection with unspecified charges. He too appears to have fled the country, and like Lewis, is thought to be in hiding in England.

Action has also been taken against members of the Afrikaans Resistance Movement who were responsible for tarring and feathering a University professor some months ago. About a dozen ARM members are expected to face charges in the next few weeks.

UNITED STATES

Klan gets the guns out

A DEMONSTRATION by black people in Decatur, Alabama at the end of May turned into a bloodbath when armed members of the Ku Klux Klan opened fire from the back of a flat bed truck. At the end of the day four people, two of them Klan members lay dead.

The demonstration was the latest step in the campaign to have dropped the charges against Willy Lee Hines, a mentally retarded black accused of raping a white woman. A firm belief that he was incapable of committing the crime has roused the black community to campaign loudly for his release. Their efforts, however, inevitably attracted the attention of the Klan, who have made it their business to attempt systematically to intimidate the town's black people into quiescene, with their tried and tested mixture of floggings and physical beatings.

Only the day after the gun attack on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference march, Klansmen invaded the city hall to demand the release of one of their members arrested the previous day for carrying a rifle with a telescopic sight. He was released.

Two weeks later, Decatur was the scene of another demonstration. This time 300 members of the Klan paraded through the streets flanked by over 500 National Guardsmen and police. The black march had gone virtually unprotected.

Gathering of the Klans

As we go to press, it has been revealed that NF leader John Tyndall was, for the last three weeks, touring America as the guest of a neo-Nazi linked with the KKK.

According to reports in *The Guardian*, Tyndall's hosts are leaders of the National States Rights Party, whose Annual Convention he addressed, and whose branches he is visiting. NSRP chairman, J.B. Stoner, currently stands indicted by an Alabama Grand Jury of being involved, in the early 60's in a dynamite attempt on a Birmingham, Alabama, Church which left a group of young children dead.

Both Stoner and another NSRP leader, Dr Fields, attended the neo-Nazi get-together at Diksmuide in 1977. Full details of the visit and its implications will appear in our next issue.

WEST GERMANY

Rocking against the right

WHEN the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) descends upon Frankfurt for its annual conference at the end of June it will be greeted by a massive 'Rock Against The Right' counter rally and a major demonstration organised by trade unions.

The protests, which are expected to attract thousands of trade unionists and young people, are being supported by the Social Democrats, the Free Democrats, the Trade Union Federation and a wide range of smaller community and political groups. Together they are calling for a massive peaceful rally against neo-Nazism.

But it isn't just the presence of a few hundred NPD members that has prompted widescale support for these initiatives. Resentment has been building up for some time at the apparent reluctance of the West German authorities to act against the increasingly provocative and violent neo-Nazi groups which are springing up throughout Germany, or against individuals accused of war crimes. The demonstrations will focus particularly on the acquittal of four of the accused in the Maidenek war crimes trial, and the appointment of ex-Nazi Party member Carl Carstens as Federal President.

Voices are also being raised at the sentences being meted out to young Nazis convicted of offences even in those rare cases where prosecution is actually successful. A recent study showed that of 750 cases over the last four years which involved neo-Nazis, sentences were only passed in 8% of them. More often than not, the sentence amounted only to a small fine.

This attitude of the courts has been called "frighteningly reserved" by Werner Nachmann, President of the Board of Directors of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. Addressing a meeting of the German Journalists' Union he said "The judiciary is short-sighted, and completely misjudges the dangers of increasing neo-Nazi activity. Instead of meeting the threat to democracy with clear sentences, they are allowing dangerous Nazis to get away with short suspended sentences or fines".

Meanwhile, the trial continues in Lower Saxony of Michael Kuhnen, leader of the 'Front of National Soldiers'. Kuhnen, a 23 year old former army lieutenant is accused of being behind the activities of the 'Werewolf' organisation which planned to carry out acts of terrorism and raise funds for the neo-Nazi movement through armed robbery. Specifically, the prosecution has alleged that they planned to attack Spandau Prison in a bid to free Rudolf Hess, bomb a British radio station, blow up a memorial to the victims of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and begin a series of armed raids across the border with East Germany.

SPAIN

Right steps up pressure for army coup

WHILE the leadership of Spain's main fascist party openly calls for the army to stage a coup, its activists are out on the streets trying to provoke it.

Last month an estimated 200,000 people joined a Fuerza Nueva (New Force) sponsored demonstration through Madrid, and after the recent bomb attack on a restaurant near the party's headquarters, its militants went on the rampage setting fires to cars and rubbish bins and attempting to seal off the select Salamanca district with barricades.

Among those arrested by police, who had to disperse them using tear gas, were members of Fuerza Nueva's youth movement, and of the breakaway Youth Front.

Police have also arrested a young fascist in connection with the murder of a Communist Party member outside a Madrid cinema at the end of April, and ten members of Fuerza Nueva after Jewish shops and property were attacked a few days later. Some of them are reported to have attended a mass held two weeks before for the repose of the soul of Adolf Hitler.

Norwegian Nazis Link Up

ARNE FLATLAND, former bodyguard to Blucher, the leader of the Norwegian Nazi Norsk Front, has recently quit the party and expressed regret for his past Nazi activities. In a series of interviews he has been speaking freely about Norsk Front activities and gave the newspaper *Dagbladet* details about his visit to England as a delegate to an international meeting organised by Column 88.

Dagbladet: "Do you know the organisation Column 88 which is supposed to be a Nazi infiltration group organised internationally, where the numbers '88' refer to the position of the letter 'h' in the alphabet and is a shortened version of 'Heil Hitler'?"

Flatland: "I don't know if it is international, but I do know the organisation. It has its base in a town south of London and is very extreme. Every 20 April delegates from Europe gather at a country estate in order to celebrate the anniversary of Hitler's birth. I have myself been the Norsk Front representative at such a gathering. There were an enormous number of armed guards with radio equipment to protect the 40 guests, some of whom brought small children with them.

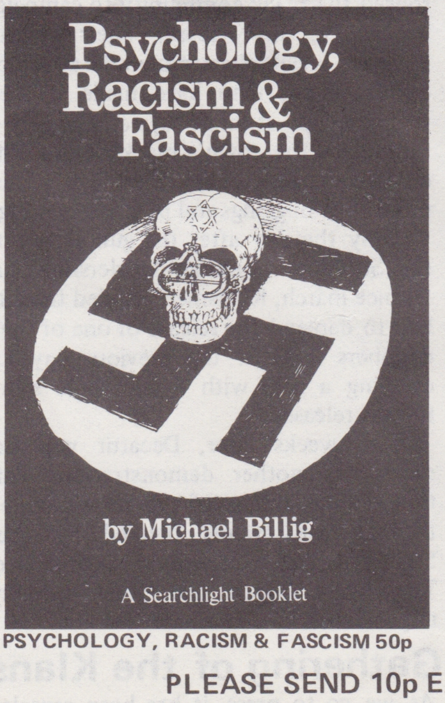
"Swastikas and the English flag with a swastika in the middle were flown and the English wore their own uniforms. Entertainment was provided by a Polish/German woman who sang the Horst Wessel as an operetta song, and there was also music by Wagner. There were also speeches by the various delegates and I also spoke."

The Norsk Front is an ideal candidate for its connection with Column 88. On May Day this year, a bomb was thrown at a demonstration organised by the Workers' Communist Party, causing serious foot injuries to a young steward.

Following strenuous demands for police action to catch the culprit, a pupil at the Army Officer School, Petter Christian Kyvik, was arrested. He turned out to be a known member of the Norsk Front and he was soon joined by other party members, following identification from newspaper photographs.

Police discovered that the attacks were actually planned in the home of Erich Blucher, the Norsk Front leader who had earlier been on TV denying any Norsk Front involvement. Protests have streamed in from trade unions many of whom have exclusion clauses against fascists. Several organisations have called for the banning of the Norsk Front and if they are found guilty when they appear in court then existing law would enable action to be taken on the grounds that they were a criminal organisation.

Petter Christian Kyvik was described by a party leader as "a true copy of the Nordic-German race". They won't be very pleased with him now, because he apparently didn't need much persuading by the police to confess that the bombing was organised by the Norsk Front ☐



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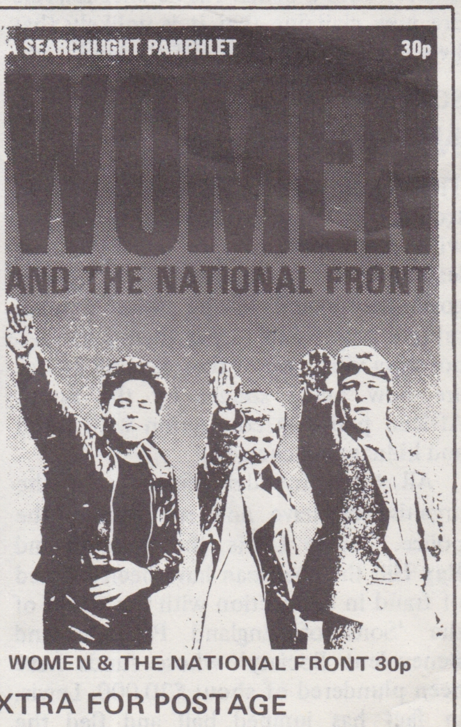

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NEWS IN BRIEF

NF ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOVED ON

Yarmouth Borough Council has finally banned the National Front from holding its annual conference in the city in October, after a long campaign of opposition from many organisations and individuals. The vote of 24 to 13 in the newly elected council was greeted with long applause. The last council, which had been controlled by the Tories had already decided to allow the Front to meet in Wellington Pier Pavilion as long as they paid a high insurance premium, which they did. But Labour, Liberal and Independent candidates gained enough seats at the election to change their policy.

The week before the final debate, the trades council, which had been campaigning against the proposed conference for months, organised a poll in Yarmouth market place. Out of 750 people, 700 said they did not want the meeting to go ahead. John Cannell, chairperson of the trades council said afterwards, "The volume of opinion against it was absolutely overwhelming. Only about 40 thought it should come here. We had people coming along here saying 'Where do we have to go to say we don't want the conference?' but not one came to us to say they were in favour".

Following the council's decision, the NF's cheque for £6,000 for the insurance premium was returned to them. But NF lawyer Reed-Herbert said that they refused to accept it and were going to send it back. He said they were looking into the question of whether there had been any breach of contract.

There are also reports that they plan to hold their conference in a holiday camp near Yarmouth, and they have applied to use a building in Leamington Spa.

TRADES COUNCIL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ANL

Torbay Trades Council has confirmed its support for the ANL despite a move to make them withdraw it. Two members of the Trades Council spoke against continuing support in the light of the violence at several of the NF's pre-election meetings. They said that although they opposed the NF they sympathised with the police. A member of the local ANL branch said in reply that it was vital to stop the spread of NF activities, and that the outcome of the meeting in Plymouth was an example of how they could be opposed peacefully.

COUNCILS AND THE FRONT'S 'PUBLIC' MEETINGS

Islington councillors are working on plans to stop the National Front hiring council property. This is a result of the Front disregarding the Representation of the People Act at their pre-election meeting and turning members of the public away. Council leader Gerry Southgate said, "We are agreed that the law was broken at the meeting.

"We are in a difficult position. We do not want to give the Front the chance to get a high court injunction forcing us to make halls available to them. If this happened, it would set a precedent for local authorities all over the country.

"We have got to be absolutely certain that if we fight them legally, we will win . . . Our aim is to stop the Front meeting in the Town Hall again, and we must go about achieving it in the right way."

Similarly Blackpool Trades Council is to seek clarification from the Town Clerk that any Front meetings in council property in the future comply with the requirements of the Act.

Bradford ANL, the Asian Youth Movement and the Trades Council executive are considering taking legal action because they also feel that the Front election meeting in a Bradford school breached the Representation of the People Act. The ANL secretary said, "Before the meeting, we wrote to Bradford council and the police asking them that the meeting was either called off, or that it should comply with the Act and be open to members of the public. The police did not reply but the chief executive of Bradford Council stated that the meeting would be open to the public.

"In fact, it was nothing of the sort. Of the 1,000 people who turned up to attend the meeting, only four people were admitted after being questioned and searched. The remainder of the people who had queued for several hours were refused admittance although the hall was not full."

WEST BROMWICH DEFENCE FUND

A Sandwell Labour councillor has been strongly criticised by Tories for his part in setting up a defence fund for anti NF demonstrators arrested at the NF meeting in West Bromwich on April 28th. Tory group leader, Cllr Ray Partridge, has attacked Cllr. John Edwards saying it was disgraceful that an elected representative should lend his name and title to "this sort of activity".

He said, "I would hope that all sensible club stewards and pub managers would refuse to allow these sort of collections on their premises . . . Had there been no demonstration at the meeting there would have been no interest whatsoever in the National Front or in their policies. They would have been spurned both locally and nationally by the electorate".

Cllr. Edwards replied by saying, "Cllr. Partridge was not at the meeting, along with other members of his party, and so has no idea what was going on. By rights he should have been there demonstrating against the racist activities of the National Front". The Conservatives have refused an invitation to affiliate to Sandwell CARF.

Magistrates cleared an NF member of possessing an offensive weapon at the same meeting in West Bromwich. Elric Moles was found to be carrying a penknife, which he apparently carried as a memento. He told the court that it never occurred to him that it could be regarded as a weapon.

Needless to say, many anti NF demonstrators arrested inside the meeting have been sentenced to fines running to £500, for defending themselves from stewards.

MORE CHURCHES DESECRATED

A church in Ilfracombe was vandalised recently and swastikas and NF symbols were painted on the altar. The walls were defaced, music sheets were written on, the gold cross on the 100 year old pulpit was changed with red ink into a swastika and the steps were covered with obscenities. The vicar asked his congregation to pray for whoever did the damage, saying "It was obviously someone quite mentally sick. It seemed almost a plea for help, and we felt the need to say a special prayer for whoever he or she may be".

Another church in Ilfracombe was robbed of two Union Jack standards and a collection box disappeared after a break-in at the belfry tower.

JOURNALISTS' UNION CRITICISES PAPER

The Cambridge branch of the NUJ has written to the *Cambridge Evening News* asking them not to allow the NF advertising space in the future. They expressed their regret at the decision to run an advert before the election. The letter said they thought that factors such as the feelings of ethnic minorities in the city should be considered.

The advertising manager of the paper, Arthur Sempers, replied that during an election any candidate should be able to express their views, as long as they did not conflict with the law.

A National Front candidate in South London, Dr Robert Mitchell, refused to talk to a journalist from a magazine called *Pulse International* because he was a member of the NUJ, and therefore likely to be a product of a comprehensive school and bound to misrepresent what he said.

EALING COUNCIL PRAISES SOUTHALL POLICE

Three weeks after the NF meeting in Southall and the demonstrations in which Blair Peach was killed, Ealing Council passed a motion commending the police for their 'courage and patience'. Thirty protestors were thrown out of the public gallery for jeering and hissing while the vote was taken – 34 Tories voting in favour and 27 Labour councillors against with one Tory abstaining.

During the debate many Labour councillors spoke against the motion. Coun Piara Khabra said, "When I look at Southall my mind goes back to the gas chambers of Germany. A great human tragedy has taken place, and I can't understand why the Tory group doesn't appreciate the situation".

Social workers in Southall have disassociated themselves from the motion. Twenty seven wrote to the *Ealing Gazette* to say that it did not take account of their views. One of the letters said, "We are very angry about the council's action. We have to work in Southall and it is very important to have credibility among the community. This is the testing point for all of the recent trouble in Southall".

A Tory councillor has demanded, in a letter to the same paper, that Ealing Community Relations Council has its grant cut because of its 'irresponsible' behahiour at the demonstrations. Coun Fleming, who made the suggestion, said he thought that the public would be 'equally well-served' if Martyn Grubb, the principal CR officer, resigned. Many letters have been since published in the *Ealing Gazette* supporting the action of the ECRC against the suggestion of Coun Fleming and condemning the council for its attitude. One such letter said, "There is an obligation to the primacy of International Law which operates even at times of domestic emergency or crisis. Persons acting in the name of the state have perpetually imposed on them a dual loyalty which may at times conflict in relation to obligations to the state and international legal order. Lawyers have recommended that in such conflict international law prevails . . . Our laws were made for an all-white society and there is a great need to use good judgement in relating them to the spirit in keeping with our multi-racial community".

The Co-ordinating Committee, originally set up to prevent the NF from coming to Southall, and which has become a permanent organisation in Southall, has not included the Tories in its membership. President of Southall IWA, Vishnu Sharma, said, "The Tories caused the situation in Southall. We hold them to blame and we felt we could not invite them".

At least £75,000 is needed to represent all the people involved in the arrests. The Southall Youth Movement have already raised £500. Ealing magistrates court passed some of the cases over to Barnet magistrates because they are too busy to hear all 342 cases. A member of the Southall Defence Committee, Mohammed Asghar, said, "We are very disturbed to find that people are being sent to places where the magistrates will be completely out of touch with the situation. We feel this is a local issue and should be dealt with by local courts".

COUNTING CHICKENS

John Calver, the NF parliamentary candidate for Leicester East, described himself in his election leaflet as a true rugger-playing, community-minded figure, secretary of a tenants' association and secretary of a working men's club. Later in May, however, his image was a little tarnished when he was sacked from the club for his political activities. The secretary of Willowbrook Working Men's club, Mr Austin Lees, said, "We had a committee vote and it was overwhelmingly decided he must go. In fairness to Mr Calver I don't want to go into details, but obviously working men's clubs are by their nature non-political and must be seen to be so".

In any case Calver had been a little hasty, considering the club has not even been built yet.

RACIST ATTACKS AND POLICE IN N.W. LONDON

For the last year, Brent Indian Association has been documenting evidence of attacks on Asians living in Kingsbury. In 1978 they held a public meeting to discuss the attacks, to which the police were invited. A representative from the Association said, "Many Asians do not report these attacks to police because they feel humiliated, or because their English is not so good. Naturally they come to us, but there is little we can do apart from drawing the police's attention to it. We have tried to do that, but they don't seem to understand how worried people are. We understand the problems because of difficulty with language and all that means, but we have the same right to protection as everyone else".

He said that the attacks ranged from young Asians being bullied at school to the beating up of elderly people. They believed they were all the result of National Front activity in the area.

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Guess who spoilt a nice dinner

GOING out for a meal is usually a pleasant experience; but for Richard Dowden, editor of the *Catholic Herald,* the pleasure was somewhat tainted when he found himself at the next table to Martin Webster and some of his colleagues. He felt so strongly about what took place that he devoted the whole of his fortnightly column "Sidetract" to describing his experience. We have his permission to reproduce it in *Searchlight.*

What is the National Front policy on Italians and on Italian restaurants? Seeking some of the Arsenal euphoria and an excuse not to do the washing up last Saturday night, my wife and I went to a little Italian restaurant near the Angel.

It seemed filled with the usual inhabitants of Islington's Camden Passage, so I was a little taken aback when I found Mr Martin Webster of the National Front sitting at the next table with three of his comrades.

I do not know how you regard the National Front. Two regular readers of the *Catholic Herald* stood as NF candidates in the last election, though I doubt they are representative. I don't, or did not, believe that they are politically important, but I think they are significant.

Our bishops have all but condemned them, and the voices of most Christians and politicians are raised against them. Some want the Front banned but "most right-thinking people" seem to agonise over the old dilemma: "I despise what you say but will defend your right to say it".

I did not intend to eavesdrop, though it was rather like being at a bookstall looking for a good read when one's eye falls continually on the porn. I heard that the international Jewish conspiracy was at the back of the Tory election victory and later that "niggers would be the first to go".

There was some discussion about reintroducing ranks into the movement.

These few trails of conversation drifted across to our table and I remarked to my wife that if people knew the National Front met at this restaurant they wouldn't come to it.

Bang!

"How dare you make offensive remarks like that, you filthy Marxist scum, that's what you are, listening in on other people's conversation, filthy Marxist scum". This hymn of hate was not wafting, it was being blown, and straight at me.

I turned to point out to the rather formal-looking, clean-shorn young man that he must have been listening to *my* conversation. No dialogue was, however, possible.

"On the dole, are you? People like you are ruining this country, we've had two thousands years of great British history and it's people like you are sending it down the drain. You filthy Communist scum."

His speeches (expletives deleted here) flew like punches. He tried a wide range of labels in the hope one might stick. I wished I had a Dunkirk medal or a Union Jack handkerchief to wave at him as I ducked and swerved.

"Students, are you, at some Poly, I've got a ten-month old child and it's people like you who are corrupting it. I despise you."

My wife tried to ask how he could know our politics and pointed out that we did not even know his child.

He launched into another attack which ended in him spitting at her. "Scum, that's all you are, trendy middle-class scum. Suppose you live in Kensington or Chelsea".

"No we live here and visit trendy restaurants just like you."

"Christ, you Communist scum, I really hate people like you."

His voice was rising to a thin shriek. I said the feeling was mutual. But my ability to choose between ignoring him, leaving, staying in the ring, asking him Byronically to step outside with his second, or simply giving him a straight right to the nose was beginning to collapse and I felt a sudden urge for the last option.

At this moment Mr Webster, perhaps foreseeing that "NF violence hits Arsenal triumph night" would not do his cause much good, stepped in and laid a restraining and massive arm on his friend's shoulder.

"Leave him alone, it isn't worth it", he said. "He made an offensive remark and he will pay for it".

More abuse flew in our direction and my wife suggested that the police be called. Webster intervened again with an impish grin, but his friend had the last word:

"We'll have our day, and when we do I've got your number", he glared viciously at me.

Well, no doubt if one quiet *Kristallnacht* the windows of the *Catholic Herald* and my home are put in or something worse happens you will hear of it. I do not know if they will have their day, but I do know they will not achieve it by persuading most people to vote for them in the normal, democratic way.

You may think that the NF is made up of upper working-class people who are frustrated by our Liberal middle-class society and have misguidedly turned their honest patriotic hearts against immigrants. But they are attracting some very ugly people.

I would look to a psychiatrist, rather than a sociologist, to explain some of their membership. I still don't know what line they take on Italian restaurants, but if I could have ordered kosher food cooked by a newly arrived Angolan chef and served by middle-class Socialist dames from Kensington, I would have done □

All Pals Together

NATIONAL Front Activities Organiser, Martin Webster, must be furious to learn that his threats and strictures to the membership to avoid all contact with members of the openly Nazi British Movement on pains of expulsion, have fallen on very deaf ears particularly in the Midlands.

According to information received by *Searchlight,* about 25 members of both parties met to see the film, *Hitler, A Career,* in Birmingham on June 15. Amongst those involved in this friendly little get-together were NF Parliamentary Candidate Bob Wallace, branch official John Beardsmore, Mick Miller, Harvey Stock, Rob Roberts and the inimitable Peter Marriner. They apparently greeted each other most cordially with well-drilled stiff raised arms, no doubt inspired by the proximity of the Führer, albeit on the screen.

Alas! their devotion was not rewarded for by a cruel twist of fate the cinema failed to open for "technical reasons", and they were left to "seig heil" each other on the pavement □

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